

of those laws which enslave us and render us pitiful objects of ridicule and contempt, and for the enactment of those laws which we consider just and right for the proper maintenance of law and order and for the fair division of capital and labour, both for sailor and officer.

We will not desire to rule, but to be ruled fairly, and to share alike the national benefits of our country with our brothers of the soil.

Then, and only in the event of our modest and fair requests being denied us, will we rise and demand these rights, and make the earth tremble as we ask them.

Not that we will fight or cry aloud, but that we will suspend three-fourths of the trade of this vast universe.

Then will people understand us, then, and only then will they realize that we are the supreme body in the world's industry and that we control the world's affairs, and that we are not only common sailors nor common carriers, but that we are men, that we are officers, that we are worthy of the trust reposed in us, and that, as labour, we are worthy something more at the hands of capital than he imagines. Then, sir, when our grievances are redressed, for redressed they will be, the brotherhood of the sea will be the brotherhood of the land, and the Marine will take upon itself to be answerable for the competency of the Brothers, to be answerable for their well being and proper behaviour to capital or country, to their ships, and to their owners, and for the better management and simplification of the working of ships in a thoroughly practical manner, for, as things are at present, one man is always crawling behind or over another's back, causing disturbance, ill-will, and drunkenness, and careless indifference to everything but self and livelihood; as, though it may seem strange, it is nevertheless true that in the ordinary steamer there are as a rule four distinct bodies.

1st. The Master, sitting high aloft on his thunder cloud, his official log book his sceptre, his arrogance his friend and councillor.

2nd. The Officers, who are afraid to do their work properly for fear of censure, not knowing what would be considered right and proper by him of the thunder cloud, as he never speaks to them but to swear at them.

3rd. The Engineers, who are almost a separate and distinct body.

4th. The Sailors, who are generally the butt of everybody, sometimes, though rarely, the confidence of the Master as against the officers, sometimes, but more often, in the confidence of the officers as against the Master, or, at least, there exists considerable sympathy between them.

Now, Sir, I must thank you most sincerely for listening to my poor idea of redressing a great grievance, but, had I not known that you are ever on the side of justice and fair dealing, I had not inflicted it on you.

Therefore, allow me to subscribe myself

Very gratefully yours,

FIFTY DOLLARS.

Hongkong, October 13th, 1888.

P.S.—Will any of my fellow-tailors of the deep concur with me in ever so slight a degree, I will willingly take upon myself the inauguration of the club scheme in Hongkong and consider it an honour.

F. D.

FIFTY DOLLARS ON THE BRIDGE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."

DEAR SIR—I observed in your issue of the 14th September most alarming effusion from my *Antagonist furina*, "Mail Boat," who, has become so used in his abortive attempt to raise my lie, that I should suggest a muzzle and a straight-windcoat, a little *St. Jacob's Oil* applied externally, and half a dozen *Allen's Scrupulous Pills* taken inwardly. These ingredients are good for the liver, the former are pained and are generally successful when applied in cases of enlarged spleen.

"Mail Boat" accuses me of personalities, weak brain, and weaker argument, and then immediately flies into a composition of the most satirical witticisms (I have yet encountered, and, if he continues, I dare venture the opinion that he will most assuredly run the future prospect of any "respectable newspaper" that has pluck enough to publish them.

I, Fifty Dollars, will admit weak brain, weaker argument, incapacity to scribble or even think, any thing that "Mail Boat" desires or says, if he will only point out to me in what respect either of his effusions has shown any relative controversial bearing to my exposition of "The Cause of Hipwrecks" or my request for an increase of pay, both which latter appeared in your issue of May 10th last, or if he will only tell me what his subject is, or what he has attempted to prove or disprove.

I know not who "Mail Boat" is, neither do I care to know anything about him or what he is, I was merely led into making suppositions as to his business and nationality, on account of his very pithy remarks of May 12th.

These suppositions were not made with the idea of discovering "Mail Boat's" identity, neither were they made in an "unstrained or bucolic simplicity," but merely made in my attempt to rid the thinking portion of humanity to a guess as to the possible writer of such remarks, and to turn the torrent of gathering ignominy from crashing on the head of a British sailor, only "Mail Boat" was so dense.

There cannot be a doubt of it, for it is apparent, even to the casual observer that, "Luk Ony," "Mail Boat's" clever boy, must be the composer of this last effusion, because I am quite sure that a real "Mail Boat" could never have been so impolitic as to be so unaccountable, even to a \$50-brain-powered coaster. And now, Sir, trusting that "Mail Boat" is in better health than when you last had the pleasure of hearing from him,

I remain,

Yours, &c.,

FIFTY DOLLARS.

Hongkong, October 13th, 1888.

THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

The Singapore *Free Press* makes the following pertinent remarks on the annual statement made by the Governor before the Legislative Council on the 4th instant, a few items of which will be found in our yesterday's and to-day's issues:—

The speech of His Excellency the Governor delivered yesterday at the opening of the session of Legislative Council merits more than usually careful reading. In saying this we do not refer to the matter of the speech, although that is the statement is entirely applicable. It is rather that this is the first official declaration of Government policy made after one of those triennially recurring occasions when there is a reconstitution of the main basis of our Colonial revenues. The Governor of this Colony is enabled to look forward beyond the horizon of the single year that is the necessary limit elsewhere to revenue forecasts, and can regulate his policy of public expenditure in safe reliance upon a large fixed item of income. Whatever the fluctuations of other currents of contribution to the public purse, this sum at all events remains unaffected. In view of this it is only natural that the Governor should be led to consider the subject of Colonial expenditure from the entirely new standpoint thus provided, and in whatever policy he thinks it advisable to recommend in the public interest, to include within the wider scope of the three years outlook, more continuous and better defined plans for the laying out of Colonial funds to wise advantage. For this

reason, then, the Governor's address of yesterday afternoon is much more than the mere conventional address with which a session of Council may be supposed to be opened or closed. It sketches out in broad lines the new direction of advance which will be followed, with such modifications as circumstances may determine, for the triennial period just entered upon. It forms a distinct landmark in the progress of the colony, and a convenient occasion for turning over a new leaf, or the diversion of energy and effort at a new point of view and with other objects. Whatever the worries and cares that beset the Governor of this Colony, in our sense his lines are cast in pleasant places. Our Colonial prosperity is so vigorously progressive that he is absolutely free, from the anxieties inseparable from an inelastic or failing revenue. We are happily out of the reach, hither to, let us say, not to be too confident—of those visitations by which Indian statesmen are hampered from time to time. Famine can only come to us through severance of our communication by sea, and our population is not so large, or so densely concentrated, as to incur the dangers from disease or pestilence from which the crowded plains of Bengal can never be guaranteed immunity. Cyclones and storm waves do not sweep our tranquil shores, and we dread no disaster such as devastated a dozen years ago the low lying lands near the mouth of the Brahmaputra, and drowned in one night nearly a quarter of a million persons. We do not harass ourselves with the creation of sinking funds against troubles of this nature, but are simply contented to take our good fortune and freedom from calamity as a matter of course. Our whole care is therefore given to the pushing on of our material prosperity, and the only difficulty seems to be a selection of the most appropriate objects to which to expend the surplus moneys of the Colony. Of appropriate enough objects we have more than abundance, and it is not right that while things are not left undone that plainly should be done, the preference should be given to those objects which contain within themselves the promise of an early and remunerative return. Seeing how interlocked the prosperity of the Straits Settlements is with the progress of the Native States under British protection, it is wisely determined that in pursuing a policy of aiding these States in their march of development, the best means is being used to bring to ourselves that wealth of commercial activity which is our Colony's mainstay. The most powerful agency for securing the increase of population and productive industry in these States is the multiplication of road and rail communications which have already, though on a small scale and within a limited sphere, achieved such splendid results upon the Western side of the Peninsula. The provision of the Native States with such funds as may be allotted for the given object will be one of the principal cares of the Colonial Government. That this policy will be amply justified by the tangible results that are no room for the least doubt. In all this broad-based sowing of wealth on the rich ground of the Native States, there are passages in His Excellency's speech that serve to remind us, that it is our business to secure our position on the Peninsula, so that we may continue our casting seed into the soil, in the expectation of reaping the full fruits of our husbandry. We are not allowed to forget that the security of all our investments and the permanent worth of our efforts to forward the prosperity of the Peninsula depend upon the unbroken maintenance of our Imperial position in this part of the world. Much has been done we know to strengthen our base here, Singapore; but we yet await, and His Excellency is concerned to have to remark it in his address, the completion of the defences, by the supply of the needed armament. Although His Excellency gives, as the reason, the statement with which he has no doubt been officially furnished by the Secretary of State, we cannot think that the statement of this Minister is quite candid, for it is really no secret that the reference is only applicable to a portion and not the whole of the sanctioned armament. There is no manufacturing difficulty whatever concerning the greater part of the new armament that is to be laid down, but it is quite true that what the Secretary of State remarked about "the heavy guns, not standing the severe tests now required" does, or did lately, apply to a pattern of which we believe we are correct in saying that we are to receive no more than two. But for the present we pass this by, and make mention of the subject only as bearing upon, and being the very foundation of, our policy of sinking capital in the Native States on worthy and profitable objects, a policy wise in proportion to the precautions we take that it is to be ourselves, and not intruders, who in future years reap the benefit. Sir Cecil Smith in his address makes it plain that while the State remarked about "the heavy guns, not standing the severe tests now required" does, or did lately, apply to a pattern of which we believe we are correct in saying that we are to receive no more than two. But for the present we pass this by, and make mention of the subject only as bearing upon, and being the very foundation of, our policy of sinking capital in the Native States on worthy and profitable objects, a policy wise in proportion to the precautions we take that it is to be ourselves, and not intruders, who in future years reap the benefit. 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of those laws which enslave us and render us pitiful objects of ridicule, and contempt, and for the enactment of those laws which we consider just and right for the proper maintenance of law and order and for the fair division of capital and labour, for the benefit of the community.

We will not desire to rule, but to be ruled fairly, and to share like the national benefits of our country with our brothers of the soil.

Then, and only in the event of our modest and fair requests being denied us, will we rise and demand these rights, and make the earth tremble as we ask them.

Not that we will fight or cry aloud, but that we will suspend three-fourths of the trade of this vast universe.

Then will people understand us, then, and only then will they realize that we are the supreme body in the world's industry and that we control the world's affairs, and that we are not only not common sailors nor common carriers, but that we are men, that we are officers, that we are worthy of the trust reposed in us, and that, as labour, we are worthy something more at the hands of capital than he imagines. Then, sir, when our grievances are redressed, for redressed they will be, the brotherhood of the Mercantile Marine will take upon itself to be answerable for the competency of the Brothers, to be answerable for their well being and proper behaviour to capital or country, to their ships, and to their owners, and for the better management and simplification of the working of ships in a thoroughly practical manner, for, as things are at present, one man is always crawling behind or over another's back, causing disturbance, ill-will, and drunkenness, and careless indifference to everything but self and livelihood; as, though it may seem strange, it is nevertheless true that in the ordinary steamer there are as a rule four distinct bodies:

1st. The master, sitting high aloft on his thunder cloud, his official log book his sceptre, his arrogance his friend and councillor.

2nd. The officers, who are afraid to do their work properly for fear of censure, not knowing what would be considered right and proper by him of the thunder cloud, as he never speaks to them but to swear at them.

3rd. The engineers, who are almost a separate and distinct body.

4th. The sailors, who are generally the butt of everybody, sometimes, though rarely, in the confidence of the master as against the officers; sometimes, but more often, in the confidence of the officers as against the master, or, at least, there exists considerable sympathy between them.

Now, Sir, I must thank you most sincerely for listening to my poor little ranting and ranting, but I am glad to know that you are ever on the side of justice and fair dealing, I had not noticed it on you.

Therefore, allow me to subscribe myself, Very gratefully yours,

FIFTY DOLLARS.

Hongkong, October 13th, 1888.

P.S.—Will any of my fellow-tollers of the deep concur with me in ever so slight a degree, I will willingly take upon myself the inauguration of the club scheme in Hongkong and consider it an honour.

F. D.

FIFTY DOLLARS ON THE BRIDGE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."

DEAR SIR—I observed in your issue of the 14th September a most alarming effusion from my *Antagonist furioso*, "Mail Boat" who, has become so rabid in his abusive attempt to raise my ire, that I should suggest a muzzle and a strait-waistcoat, a little *St. Jacob's Oil* applied externally, and half a dozen *Mother Selig's Curative Pills* taken inwardly. These latter two are good for the liver, the former are panaceas and are generally successful when applied in cases of enlarged spleen.

"Mail Boat" accuses me of personalities, weak brain, and weaker argument, and then immediately flies into a composition of the most satirical witicism(?) I have yet encountered, and, if he continues, I dare venture the opinion that he will most assuredly ruin the future prospects of any "respectable newspaper" that has pluck enough to publish them.

I, Fifty Dollars, will admit weak brain, weaker argument, incapacity to scribble or even think, any thing that "Mail Boat" desires or says, if he will only point out to me in what respect either of his effusions has shown any relative controversial bearing to my exposition of "The cause of hipwreckers" or my request for an increase of pay, both which latter appeared in your issue of May 10th last, or if he will only tell me what his subject is, or what he has attempted to prove or disprove.

I know not who "Mail Boat" is, neither do I care a coodle's anathema who or what he is, I was merely led into making suppositions as to his business and nationality, on account of his very phily remarks of May 12th.

These suppositions were not made with the idea of discovering "Mail Boat's" identity, neither were they made in an untried or huculic simplicity, but merely made in my attempt to aid the thinking portion of humanity to a guess as to the possible writer of such remarks and to turn the torrent of gathering indignity from crashing on the head of a British sailor, only "Mail Boat" was so dense.

There cannot be a doubt of it, for it is apparent even to the casual observer that, "Luk Ong," "Mail Boat's" clever boy, must be the composer of this last effusion, because I am quite sure that a real "Mail Boat" could never have been so impudent as to be so unceremonious even to a \$50 brain-power, as to say, "Now, Sir, trusting that "Mail Boat" is in better health than when you last had the pleasure of hearing from him.

I remain, Yours, &c.

FIFTY DOLLARS.

Hongkong, October 13th, 1888.

THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

The Singapore *Free Press* makes the following pertinent remarks on the annual statement made by the Governor before the Legislative Council on the 4th instant, a few items of which will be found in our yesterday's and to-day's issues:

The speech of His Excellency the Governor delivered yesterday at the opening of the session of Legislative Council merits more than usual careful reading. In saying this we do not refer to the matter of the speech, although to that statement is entirely applicable. It is rather that this is the first official declaration of Government policy made after one of those triennially recurring occasions when there is a reconstitution of the main body of our Colonial Legislature.

The Governor of the Colony is enabled to look forward beyond the horizon of the single year that is the necessary limit elsewhere to revenue forecasts, and can regulate his policy of public expenditure in safe reliance upon a large fixed item of income. Whatever the fluctuations of other currents of contribution to the public purse, this sum at all events remains unaffected. In view of this it is only natural that the Governor should be led to consider the subject of Colonial expenditure from the entirely new standpoint this provides, and in whatever policy he chooses to adopt, to be so unceremonious as to include within the wider scope of the three years outlook, more continuous and better defined plans for the laying out of Colonial funds to the advantage of the Colony.

reason, then, the Governor's address of yesterday afternoon is much more than the mere conventional address with which a session of Council may be supposed to be opened and closed. It sketches out in broad lines the new direction of advance which will be followed, with such modifications as circumstances may determine, for the triennial period just entered upon. It forms a distinct landmark in the progress of the colony, and a convenient occasion for the turning over of a new leaf, or the diversion of energy and effort at development to new and worthier objects. Whatever the worries and cares that beset the Governor of this Colony, in his sense his lines are cast in pleasant places. Our Colonial prosperity is so vigorously progressive that he is absolutely free from the anxieties inseparable from an incalculable or falling revenue. We are happily out of the reach,—better to let us say, not to be too confident,—of those visitations by which Indian statesmen are hampered from time to time. Famine can only come to us through severance of our communication by war, and our population is not so large or so densely compacted as to incur the dangers from disease or pestilence from which the crowded plains of Bengal can never be guaranteed immunity. Cyclones and storm waves do not sweep our tranquil shores, and we dread no disaster such as a dozen years ago the low lying lands near the mouth of the Brahmaputra, and drowned in one night nearly a quarter of a million persons. We do not harass ourselves with the creation of sinking funds against troubles of this nature, but are simply contented to take our good fortune and freedom from calamity as the merest matter of course. Our whole care is therefore given to the pushing on of our material prosperity, and the only difficulty seems to be a selection of the most appropriate objects on which to expend the surplus moneys of the Colony. Of appropriate enough objects we have more than abundance, and it is in the right that while things are not left undone that should be done, the preference should be given to those objects which contain within themselves the promise of an early and remunerative return. Seeing how interlocked the prosperity of the Straits Settlements is with the progress of the Native States under British protection, it is wisely determined that in pursuing a policy of aiding these States in their march of development, the best means is being used to bring to ourselves the wealth of commercial activity which is our Colony's mainstay. The most powerful agency for securing the increase of population and productive industry in these States is the multiplication of roads and railways, and communications which already, though on a small scale, and within a limited sphere, achieved such splendid results upon the Western side of the Peninsula. The provision of the Native States with such funds as may be allotted for the given object will be one of the principal cares of the Colonial Government. That this policy will be amply justified by the most tangible results there is no room for the least doubt. In all this broadcast sowing of wealth on the rich ground of the Native States, there are passages in His Excellency's speech that serve to remind us, that it is our business to secure our position on the Peninsula, so that we may continue our casting seed into the soil, in the expectation of reaping the full fruit of our husbandry. We are not allowed to forget that the security of all our investments and the permanent worth of our efforts to forward the prosperity of the Peninsula depend upon the unbroken maintenance of our Imperial position in this part of the world. Much has been done, we know to strengthen our base here, Singapore; but we yet await, and His Excellency is concerned to have to remark in his address, the completion of the defences, by the supply of the needed armament. Although His Excellency gives, as the reason, the statement with which he has no doubt been officially furnished by the Secretary of State, we cannot but feel that the statement of this Minister is quite candid, for it is really no secret that the reference is only applicable to a portion and not the whole of the sanctioned armament. There is no manufacturing difficulty whatever concerning the greater part of the new armament that is to be laid down here, but it is quite true that what the Secretary of State remarked about "the heavy guns not standing the severe tests now required" does, or did lately, apply to a pattern of which we believe we are correct in saying that we are to receive no more than two. But for the present we pass this by, and make mention of the subject only as bearing upon, and being the very foundation of, our policy of sinking capital in the Native States on worthy and profitable objects, a policy wise in proportion to the precautions we take that it is to be ourselves, and not intruders, who may in future years reap the benefit. Sir Cecil Smith in his address makes it plain that while earnest in his desire to forward the prosperity of the Colony and the Allied Native States on the lines that afford the fairest promise of early reward, he is equally in earnest about achieving that real security which is so necessary to the just confidence of Minister and Merchant alike in the laying out of capital, whether for private profit or the public good.

WHY MEN DON'T MARRY.

For close on a generation the European marriage-rate has been decreasing. Nowhere, however, has the decrease so significantly manifested itself as in the United Kingdom. In the British Islands for every 18 couples (174 to be precise) to the 1000 inhabitants in 1868, scarcely more than 14 approach the altar or the registry-office to-day in the purpose of being made one. This means that in Great Britain alone over 100,000 fewer marriages were solemnized last year than would have been the case had the rate of 20 years since been maintained. In other words, in one small country 100,000 women of marriageable age are yearly left to become maiden aunts or disconsolate virgins when they might have been wives and mothers.

If this state of things is sad—as it certainly is—the reasons given for it by English and by Australian journals are inexpressibly trivial. It is said, for instance, that young men do not marry because they are more exacting than formerly; they want to preserve in married life the same independence, not to say license, they possessed when single. It is further hinted that men postpone marriage until assured of a competence, the prospect of a cottage, with or without love, having lost whatever attractions it may have formerly possessed. The writers, in fact, who have endeavoured to discover the cause of the steadily-increasing unwillingness of men to face the responsibilities of marriage have carefully avoided touching on what appears to be the most potent cause of all. They have unearthed a number of subsidiary reasons, while leaving the principal one untouched. It is not so much the fear of restraint that keeps a man from entering that social union so clearly designed by Nature. It is the rapidly-growing suspicion that owing to an insensate system, the woman of to-day, in a vast majority of cases, is a clog not alone on his worldly prospects, but on his higher life.

There is no reason to suppose that the modern woman of civilised society is inferior either intellectually or morally to her predecessors. But there is every reason to conclude, that, owing as we have said, to an absurd system of training, she comes to the battle of life far less judiciously equipped than her forbears. Among the English-speaking folk of the British Empire

there are at present growing up millions of girls who are being diligently taught what, in womanhood they will quickly forget, while the lessons which would be of inestimable service in after life are studiously neglected. One curious feature in connection with the alarming fall in the English marriage-rate is that it upsets another so-called law which was discovered and dilated on by Buckle over 30 years ago. That remarkable author of a remarkable book ventured the positive statement that wars were becoming less frequent. Scarcely were his lines dry when the Russians crossed the Pruth and the Allies started for the Crimea. Since that date some of the bloodiest wars in the annals of mankind have taken place, while at the present moment signs are not wanting that Europe is on the eve of a bloodier and more protracted struggle still. Again, he conclusively proved by carefully-compiled statistics that there was an inverse ratio between the marriage-rate and the price of flour—the former going up while the latter went down, and vice versa. Thus a dear loaf was supposed to mean fewer banns, while cheap bread implied more weddings. For the last 20 years, however, the ratio has been direct instead of inverse, the price of flour having steadily fallen and the percentage of nuptials with it. Thus it appears that not even the temptation of a cheap breakfast-table consequent on the triumph of Free-trade has been sufficient to induce the young Englishman to provide for his neighbour's daughter.

In savage life the woman does everything. As civilisation progresses she becomes less of a slave and more of an equal. This is as it should be. The misfortune is that she has not only long ceased to do everything, but, if the present system of female education continue, there is a fair likelihood of her being unfitted to do anything at all. Nor is this the worst. To do nothing is bad; but it is not as bad as to do something badly. For a young person to be ignorant of the piano is a misfortune. It is doubtful, however, whether it is so actively irritating as the inability to play a negro melody by ear. To dwell for a moment on this subject of music alone, there is no doubt that harmony is a necessary ingredient in happiness. Without the former the latter is incomplete and unsatisfactory. Still, it is extremely questionable whether the average woman's acquaintance with harmony in the form of ability to extract a succession of pleasing sounds from a piano is of much moment in inducing the average male to remain at home. Indeed, the opinion appears to be gaining ground that the expensive instrument is the "best room" in the house, and that the cause of that sentiment being avoided by the head of the house. Such, however, is the tyranny of custom; such the stupid adherence to a stupid system, that time, trouble and treasure are expended prodigally in teaching young people an art in which Nature has decreed that most of them can never attain even mediocrity—an art which it will be the study of their maturer years to forget. We instance this as an example of the pains taken in numberless cases to fit young persons for the inevitable struggle of life by arming them with weapons whose use they are neither dextrous nor capable of mastering.

This must not be thought narrow, or ungenerous view to take of that much-dubated subject—female education. We yield to none in our desire to see opportunities for the highest culture brought to the doors of all, irrespective of sex, who evince the necessary love and aptitude for them. But when it is remembered that woman's chief mission—however dainty theorists have endeavoured to ignore it—is, has been, and always will be, to become the mother of sturdy children, it is surely not too much to expect that the knowledge necessary to enable her to perform worthily her assigned part in Nature's scheme should not be withheld.

One of the minor reasons, then, for the significant fall in the marriage-rate might be sought and found in the fact that, while the pressure of numbers and the consequently greater difficulty in making a living at all are yearly increasing, the ordinary training of women is such as unfits them for taking their fair share in the work.

The fact is that, owing to many causes—chief among them being the tendency of female education to lessen the chances of woman's becoming a real helpmate—the young men of to-day begin to see in the marriage contract an entirely one-sided arrangement. Hence they avoid it in yearly increasing numbers. The man, in a word, has the worst of the bargain. It is sweet, no doubt, to know there is a comely wife whose ear will be the first to catch your approaching footsteps; pleasant to see winsome bairns in whose veins your blood runs merrily. But if the price paid for these pleasures is unremitting toil and prospective poverty; if the independence of bachelorhood has to give place to a life of dependence, perhaps of squalor, it is little wonder that so many young men pause on the threshold. To the great majority of men marriage means the difference between wearing their hats on their heads and in their hands. In the heyday of his strength the man finds himself in the face with the cruel alternative—either a natural life of dependence and devoid of those things which give extent to meaning. For it is not so much what our odd system of female training does in the direction of unfitting women to assist in keeping the family pot boiling as what it leaves undone. Take, for instance, the all-important question of money and its value. It is not too much to say that of ten women who have never had to earn their daily bread scarcely two know how to spend money to advantage. Being unacquainted with the work or thought required to obtain it, they are ignorant of its value. So it results that in the expenditure of cases it is a hazardous experiment to send an active young woman down, in sight of a row of showy shops with a five-pound note in her purse. Let her but see an article possessing the dual attractions of dearness and uselessness, and the chances are much in favour of her becoming a purchaser. Should she have children whose happiness is sensibly augmented by the possession of inexpensive or durable toys—such as bricks, cast-iron animals, or other interestingly-exciting articles not easily rendered unobtainable—the affectionate parent returns home with an assortment of playthings which the industrious makers fashioned so dextrously as to ensure their falling to pieces on the least encouragement. The male parent on returning from his workshop or his office observes with thankfulness that the money he toiled to procure is being laid out to advantage. This naturally makes him grateful for the good fortune that some years previously threw in his path the careful young woman who at the tea-table takes a seat opposite him, beaming with the consciousness of having worthily performed her part of the domestic duties.

Observe the difference between the training of the fairly well-to-do Continental female and that of her British or Australian sister. In any of the garrison towns in France daintily-dressed officers' wives may be seen attending market and expending the allotted portion of their husband's slender pay in providing for the family's modest table. The poultry, the fruit, or "costly," who succeeded in selling those well-bred ladies an attenuated fowl or an imperfectly-developed cauliflower, would require to be a person of abnormal perspicacity. But—and we say it with extreme regret—the English or Australian lady in similar circumstances would not attend market at all but remain at home and become a ready victim to the first glib-tongued

vendor of doubtful ducks or malodorous fish who happened to call. It was but the other day we heard an elderly lady say on observing the slowly-dragging feet of a struggling free-selector engaged in pounding pork on a primitive plane, "What the good will they be to any men?" It may have been coarse—it was certainly true. She had been her husband's true helpmate, had faced poverty with him and aided him in attaining affluence. Had she been as they, she and her husband would be, figuratively speaking, in the gutter still. The average man in his very poor circumstances teaches his sons to rely on hard labour for a livelihood until something better comes in their way. If in a slightly superior position, he puts his boys to a trade, or endeavours in some way to get them taught how to be useful. Men of independent means either leave their lads legacies or put them to professions—frequently both. How different with daughters! It is not that they are not taught professions or trades; it is not that they are not trained to hard work. Young men neither demand nor desire such accomplishments in their intended wives. What they do expect is that the women taken to their homes may have been trained to assist, not to retard, not to necessarily spell misery. In a word, the amiable decision in the marriage is a symptom, not so much that young men are afraid of poverty, as that in the balance of cases poverty, with all its unlovely surroundings, must necessarily follow as a consequence of the insensate method or want of method employed in fitting woman for her mission.—*Sydney Bulletin.*

THE NEGLECT OF LIFE ASSURANCE.

There is no feature of our civilised life that strikes a thoughtful man with more force than the neglect of LIFE ASSURANCE. By payment of a small quarterly subscription any man of good health can secure a very large sum to his family in case of premature death, yet hundreds of families brought up in comfort—perhaps in luxury—are left in extreme poverty every year from the bread winner having neglected to assure his life. In the East many a man lives up to his income, knowing well that if death cut him off suddenly, his wife and children would be left almost wholly unprovided for. All this can be prevented by Life Assurance.

EVERY FACILITY In connection with Life Assurance Business is afforded by THE STANDARD LIFE OFFICE, one of the largest and wealthiest of the Provident Institutions of the United Kingdom. Forms of application and all information will be promptly afforded on application to any of the Standard Company's Agents, or to

THE HORNE COMPANY, LD., Agents, Hongkong.

Hongkong, 29th June, 1888. [559]

ECONOMIC FIRE OFFICE, LIMITED, LONDON.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL.....£1,000,000 SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL.....357,500 PAID-UP CAPITAL.....71,500

THE Undersigned having been appointed AGENTS for the above Company, are prepared to accept RISKS at CURRENT RATES.

F. NAUDIN & Co., Office, No. 58, Queen's Road Central, Hongkong, 17th September, 1888. [522]

GENERAL NOTICE.

THE ON TAI INSURANCE COMPANY, (LIMITED).

CAPITAL TAELS 600,000, RESERVE FUND.....\$33,333-33

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

MANAGER—HO AVEL.

HEAD OFFICE, 8 & 9, PRAYA WEST, Hongkong, 17th December, 1887. [858]

NOTICE.

THE MAN ON INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED.....\$1,000,000

The above Company is prepared to accept MARINE RISKS at CURRENT RATES on GOODS, &c. Policies granted to all Parts of the world payable at any of its Agencies.

WOO LIN YUEN, Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE, No. 4, QUEEN'S ROAD WEST, Hongkong, 1st February, 1882. [150]

Intimations.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

INFORMATION has been received from the MILITARY AUTHORITIES that TARGET PRACTICE will take place from Stone-cutters' Island Batteries on MONDAY, the 15th instant, from 4 to 6 P.M.

The direction of the fire will be nearly due West from Stone-cutters' Island West Battery. All junks and other Vessels are cautioned to keep clear of the range.

By Command, FREDERICK STEWART, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 10th October, 1888. [1017]

CHINESE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT.

LOAN C.

NOTICE is hereby given, that in conformity with the Stipulation contained in the Bonds of this Loan, the DRAWN BONDS and INTEREST will be PAID at the Office of the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION, on the 15th day of October, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty-eight.

Lists of Drawn Bonds may be obtained on application.

For the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION, W. H. GASKELL, Acting Chief Accountant.

Hongkong, 12th October, 1888. [1027]

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF HONGKONG.

PROBATE JURISDICTION.

In the Goods of FONG CHUNG, alias FONG TAN FO, Deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given that in accordance with the Provisions of Ordinance No. 9 of 1870, Section 3, on Order has been made by the Honourable JAMES RUSSELL, Acting Chief Justice of the said Court, limiting the time for CREDITORS and others to send in their CLAIMS to the Undersigned against the above Estate to the 11th April, 1889, on or before which date all Claims must be proved.

All Persons indebted to the said Estate are requested to make immediate payment to WOTTON & DEACON, Solicitors for the Administrator.

Hongkong, 12th October, 1888. [1029]

HONGKONG HOTEL.

THE Hotel is prepared to SUPPLY Picnic and Shooting Parties with all requirements. The Hotel Launch is Available for HIRE when not required for Hotel purposes.

Apply to C. M. ROBERTS, Manager.

Hongkong, 15th September, 1888. [915]

MITSUI BUSSAN KAISHA.

SOLE AGENTS FOR THE MILK COAL MINE.

DUNKER COALS can be supplied to any Steamer lying in the harbour or coming alongside the Kowloon Wharf on application to the Undersigned.

Y. FUKUHARA, Acting Manager.

Hongkong, 12th January, 1888. [1010]

TAKASIMA COLLIERY AGENCY.

I HAVE this day resumed charge of this AGENCY.

H. H. TRIPP, Agent.

Hongkong, 6th October, 1888. [1000]

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